

program.²¹² During that year, they were the second largest contributor of any kind to the DNC, and they received attention befitting this stature.²¹³ Their Chairman, Richard “Skip” Hayward, was recognized as a DNC trustee, and invited to numerous functions over the next few years, including dinners and coffee with the President at the White House. Pequot tribal leaders met privately with then-DNC Chairman David Wilhelm in 1994, and again with National Chairman Fowler in late 1995. The Pequot tribal leaders were able to arrange meetings with high-ranking Administration officials on matters of concern to them, including a meeting with Ickes regarding an application they had pending during 1994 and 1995 for acquisition of land-in-trust for the expansion of their Foxwoods Resort Casino property.

²¹²Through this program, the DNC solicited contributions to state party committees which contributors delivered to the DNC and the DNC then distributed the checks. This program allowed the DNC to make allocation decisions about non-federal money it collected and then distributed directly to the committees, receiving credit for the fund-raising and maintaining some influence over the contributions of major donors.

²¹³The Pequots’ political activity also received substantial national media attention. *See, e.g., Leading GOP Business Donor Gave Democrats Late Help*, The Washington Post, Dec. 9, 1992, at A21 (noting Pequots’ \$100,000 DNC contribution in 1992); *Indian Leaders Bring Concerns to Clinton Team*, Gannett News Service, Dec. 17, 1992 (quoting Michael Anderson, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, who described the Pequots’ \$100,000 1992 DNC contribution and the efforts of Native Americans for Clinton-Gore during the presidential campaign); *Party Finances Do Not Reflect the Victors and the Vanquished*, The Washington Post, Feb. 22, 1994 at A15 (noting Pequots’ \$100,000 DNC contribution in 1993 to the Democrats’ health care campaign); *Givers’ Largess Is Putting Heat on Clinton*, the New York Times, June 22, 1994 at A1 (reporting Pequots’ Democratic Party contributions from July 1992 to March 1994 as \$300,000); *Gambling Means Wealth, Political Access for One Tribe*, National Public Radio, Aug. 8, 1994 (quoting Kevin Gover of NACG: “I don’t believe in the theory of buying politicians, but I do believe in buying access, and that’s what the Mashantuckets have done.”); *New Game for Pequots: Party Politics*, the New York Times, Aug. 30, 1994 at B1 (describing Pequot contributions and pledges to state Democratic parties in 1994 totaling \$500,000); *Tribe Donates \$10 Million to Planned Indian Museum*, The Washington Post, Oct. 25, 1994 (noting Pequots’ donations of \$500,000 to DNC).